

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Department of Natural Resources

Room 1050

March 8, 2005

Minutes

Member Present:

FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
CLARK, Robert – DEQ/Air Quality
DANIELS, Ron – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
CHRISTY, Kim – School & Institutional Trust Lands
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
WILDE, Kenneth – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation
CLAYTON, Boyd – Division of Water Rights
HOWARD, Ty – DEQ/Division of Environmental Response & Remediation
GUNNELL, Roy – Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Others Present:

HARJA, John – Department of Natural Resources
WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
COTTAM, Brian – Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
HANSEN, Mike – Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

Kim Frost called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes/Election

Karl Kappe made a motion to approve the February 8, 2005. Roy Gunnell seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Kimm Harty, Utah Geological Survey (UGS), announced that the division is taking responsibility for the State Energy Program. Denise Beaudoin, Nikole Littleboy, Mike Vanden Berg and Glade Sowards from the Utah Energy Office will transfer to UGS on March 12, 2005. This group will be federal funded.

Brian Cottam, Program Specialist for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB), he is located in Bicknell, Utah, and is responsible for the county resource management planning tool kit. He is working with natural resource issues, rural development and the county resource management planning. Brian Cottam is meeting with committees that are working with the GOPB. Hopefully, provide assistance to counties and rural communities to use these tool kits. Approximately \$100,000 was funded to help Daggett, Iron, San Juan, Uintah and Tooele Counties. Daggett County is working on a timber and community forestry management planning effort for the north slope. Uintah County is working on a recreation management plan for public lands. Tooele County is doing on a recreation management and marketing plan. San Juan County is completing a travel management plan (for the Monticello District of Manti La Sal) and the Canyon Country Loop All-Terrain Vehicle Trail.

According to Mike Hansen, counties have been pleased about the planning tool kit process and are working toward utilizing this model. Counties lack the staff and the funding to use this tool

effectively. The county planning tool kit process will require regular updates. Several counties are very interested in managing recreation.

Kim Christy, School and Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA), reported that off-highway vehicle (OHV) registrations have increased three-fold from 40,000 to 120,000 in six years. Last year the legislature granted SITLA the opportunity to be involved in OHV registration in the state. Pressure on federal domain and trust lands is increasing. Agencies are moving into more restrictive access to control serious resource degradation. SITLA is working with counties to leverage dollars (\$1/4 million a year) to prioritize projects, working with counties to provide opportunities for OHV use and to mitigate resource degradation. Areas of particular concern are in southeastern Utah, such as Spanish Valley and the Lions Back area and other projects throughout the state. Chris Faucet is the SITLA OHV Coordinator. SITLA's surface sale will be held in St. George on May 27, 2005, and is focused on southern Utah properties. Bryan Torgerson, the new Resource Specialist for SITLA and will run the Moab Office (Emery, San Juan and Grand Counties). Western Excelsior Corporation is looking for a location for a satellite plant in Utah to utilize local aspen. They are considering Price, Cedar and Richfield for a mill site. The product is used for evaporative cooler pads, packing material and is also used for erosion control blankets to stabilize soils. The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL) has been involved in these meetings. More information will be available within a few months.

Gordon Topham, Resource Advisory Committee, is giving OHV presentations to the local governments in behalf of the BLM seeking support from the counties. He was requesting input from the counties what they would like to see implemented for OHV management. He did not receive any support. Perfecting easements is often in the name of the county. Comprehensive resource management plans could be used to help develop opportunities to resolve local resource issues.

Ty Howard, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR), reported that the clean up of Silver Creek Watershed Project in Empire Canyon will address contaminated soils removal. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wanted to cap the tailings in place. Park City decided that they wanted the tailings removed and combined with the Richardson Flat tailings. The soils are in contact with Silver Creek.

DERR is meeting with the BLM regarding the Silver Maple tailings farther downstream in the channel. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a natural resource damage claim against BLM and United Park City Mines (recently purchased by the Talisker Corporation). Some of the Silver Maple tailings may be consolidated with the Richardson Flat tailings. Truck traffic and transport (along U224) of these soils is an issue. The soils for these sites may be capped and/or removed and capped. State Parks and Recreation has a rail trail runs through this area and to please don't touch the ballast. There may be contamination along the rail trail that they would like to cap or remove. There are wetlands in the area. A fishing advisory is in place for the Silver Creek drainage.

Roy Gunnell, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, stated that together with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) they have inventoried approximately 3,000 animal feeding operations over the last two years. Several years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the EPA worked out a strategy to inventory animal feeding operations. A

discharge permit from DEQ-Division of Water Quality was obtained by 56 Confined Animal Feeding Operators (no discharge permit). Utah is ahead of the rest of the United States in inventorying all of the Animal Feeding Operations.

Roy Gunnell reported that EPA announced through the Federal Register, on January 31, 2005, that EPA is proposing a plan to monitor air quality emissions around large animal feeding operations throughout the country. The large agricultural industry is supportive of this monitoring process to prevent litigation regarding air quality emissions from environmental groups. Utah is concerned that best management practices to control water and runoff from feedlots may contribute to air quality problems. The Utah State Department of Agriculture and Food is opposed to EPA's air quality emissions proposal, as it is currently proposed. It would require pre-payment of fines while developing air quality emission standards for animal feeding operations. The department feels that this current proposal is unacceptable and is based on poor science. The 30-day comment period began on January 31, 2005, and a sign-up period runs for 90 days. The department sent letters to EPA stating that the sign-up period should begin when the comment period ended on March 2, 2005. The congressional delegation and the Governor's Office sent comments before the deadline on March 2, 2005. EOA has now indicated that the comment period and sign up period has been extended.

Susan Zarekarizi reported that State Parks and Recreation (SPR) received \$700,000 of ongoing money to help with programs and \$2 million one-time funding for park improvements. Funding originally taken from law enforcement was restored later in the session (\$300,000).

SPR together with Utah State University is completing a tourism study regarding public opinion about state parks and their operation.

SPR will be working on boating capacity study to determine limits for Utah waters. A boating summit is being held today.

SPR is interested in doing an OHV plan within a SPR strategic management plan and will begin to work on develop a Statewide Comprehensive Management Plan. Hopeful senators will fund by Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to be used for these purposes.

Hickman sponsored a bill to allow hunting on Antelope Island. Senate Bill #187 included new hunting permits for bison, big horn sheep and deer. This was a very controversial bill that initiated considerable discussion/debate and fostered several spoof bills. It passed the senate but did not pass the house due to time constraints. SPR will be collecting public opinion on this issue during 2005.

Mike Hansen and Brian Cottam attended this meeting to get acquainted and involved in RDCC. The Transition Team document made recommendations intended assist and help guide agencies with planning efforts by becoming involved as needed.

Robert Clark, Division of Air Quality, reported that extensive comments and questions were submitted for the Vernal Resource Management Plan.

Karl Kappe, DFFSL, reported that the division lost \$2 million from the Sovereign Land Management Account during the legislative session.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), reported that \$200,000 was cut from the DWR's law enforcement budget, however other new funding was provided and the DNR was granted \$2 million for watershed restoration and rehabilitation. This fund may be run like the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund. Project Management Library #4948 project will transplant greater sage- grouse from Parker Mountain to Strawberry Valley.

Ron Daniels, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM), reported that a record number of applications for drill permits were received for new wells (exceeded 1,000 in 2004). DOGM received a building block to hire additional personnel to assist with drill permitting. DOGM will continue to be involved in several successful outreach efforts with the Canyon Country Partnership and Collaborative Oil and Gas Group in Vernal, Utah.

Kim Frost reported that the BLM is working on a Fire Environmental Assessment which is the Utah Land Use Amendment will be completed and ready for a 30 day public comment period by April 1, 2005.

John Harja, Department of Natural Resources, announced that RDCC extension bill passed and will be good for another 10 years. Senate Bill 239, which established the Office of Public Lands Policy Coordination Group passed and will go into effect on May 15, 2005. It has not been decided where RDCC staff will reside or who will serve as the state Planning Coordinator. Gayle McKeachnie will address all rural issues.

Senate Bill 199, Energy Office Bill, split the Utah Energy Office to the UGS (State Energy Program), DEQ and the Governor's Office (economic and policy). Legislators requested a report in September 2005.

During the legislative session a new bill, recommended that the Antiquities section should be located in the Division of Wildlife Resources. This bill was substituted and revised to include a study to determine the role, where the State History Antiquities section should be located in state government and how they should be involved in the regulatory process. If an agency is proposing a project and the State Archeologist is proposing something that will not work. The agency can ask the State Planning Coordinator to gather involved agencies to mediate and the State Archeologist will be required to promote alternatives for inventory and data recovery that must not substantially increase the cost of the project. Kim Frost and John Harja have been sponsoring discussions about programmatic grievances on archeological recovery for SITLA and for UDWR. In the past, project costs have been doubled to conduct archeological surveys. A representative from State History could be attending RDCC meetings.

Please the review the BLM Coal Suitability Report for the Wasatch Plateau and the Henry Mountains by Friday, March 11, 2005. Send comments directly to John Harja. Comments should be sent directly to John Harja.

John Harja thanked RDCC members for Vernal Resource Management Plan comments. Additional comments must be received as soon as possible. The draft plan review process ends April 2005. The state's comments will be sent to the counties for their review 20 days prior to the end of the comment period. The county will have 10 days to review the state's comments.

The Policy Group will consolidate comments, coordinate and resolve any issues. Special meetings may be needed to address air quality issues in the plan.

Boyd Clayton, Division of Water Rights, is the contact for the U.S. Geological Survey study of the water flow in and around Snake Valley (water flow and studies). The BLM, Ely Office in Nevada, is sponsoring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and has invited the State of Utah to participate as a cooperating agency. John Harja has been designated as the Utah cooperative agency point of contact for the Snake Valley Las Vegas Water Project.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has a new strategic planning process. Manti La Sal, Dixie and Fishlake National Forests will have the option to use the old or new regulations. If they decide to use the new regulations they may not make any major decisions with an environmental impact statements and will focus on strategic planning. Brian Hansen reported that all three forests have decided to use new regulations and will have meetings with the counties. RDCC will review the wild and scenic and roadless preliminary studies. These studies are required by law. The wild and scenic river report for the Ashley National Forest has several internal inconsistencies. Comments may challenge information in the wild and scenic river reports. A letter from the state to USFS indicates that the USFS will have to make recommendations on the roadless and wild and scenic rivers (requires an EIS) in these preliminary studies.

The USFS draft regulation regarding state process petitions to determine what to do with inventoried roadless areas. RDCC has submitted comments. This may be adopted by early April. The state would be able to comment on each of these areas. A building block was proposed to fund this and it was not funded. A field trip may occur during the summer. The Draft Coal Unsuitability Report in the Richfield RMP is part of this report. Comments are due on Friday, March 11, 2005.

Comments are being finalized for the Price RMP (65,000 comments were received). Meetings will be held to discuss issues with the BLM this summer. Several meetings to discuss issues are anticipated with the Price Office. The Final EIS of the Price RMP may be completed in May for review. The document will have a 60-day consistency review. The county is interested in being involved in the consistency review.

The Richfield RMP is on hold, since Chapter 4, has raised several issues and concerns. Many problems were identified in the initial review. Information was missing, incorrect, and confusing. The chapter was poorly written. John Harja will be commenting on land exchanges and Kim Frost will be commenting on economics.

Mike Noel amended H.B.264 to improve coordination with state and federal agencies. This will be an ongoing discussion.

St. George, Utah is working on a Travel Management Plan for their field office that will amend their Land Use Management Plan. The state is a cooperating agency in this effort.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

No discussion on this topic.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1050.

The RDCC minutes from the March 8, 2005 meeting were approved on April 12, 2005.